

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- At time of the action: Claims 1-20.
- Amended claims: Claims 1, 7, 11, and 19.
- Canceled claims: Claims 8, 18, and 20.
- After this response: Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19.

1. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An open back weather guard, comprising:
a frame comprising a plurality of interconnected rigid members defining a supporting structure, the frame further comprising:

a pair of opposed horizontal transverse members rigidly attached to a pair of opposed cross members substantially perpendicular to the transverse members forming a substantially horizontal rigid body;

at least one downwardly extending vertical support member connected to the horizontal rigid body, the at least one vertical support member is connected to one of the cross members;

at least one bracket comprising a first end and a second end, the first end is attached to the horizontal rigid body and the second end extends downwardly at an angle θ , wherein the second end of the at least one bracket tapers such that it is attached to the vertical support member; [[and]]

a membrane attached to the frame defining an opening, wherein the membrane forms a shield against environmental conditions inside the opening; and

a fastener for removeably attaching the weather guard to at least one of an enclosure or an exterior portion of the structure around an opening.

2. (Original) The weather guard of claim 1, further comprising two opposing downwardly extending vertical support members connected to each one of the corresponding cross members of the substantially horizontal rigid body.

3. (Original) The weather guard of claim 1, further comprising two brackets attached to any one of the opposing cross members, the transverse members, and an intersection point thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The weather guard of claim 1, further comprising a first leg and a second leg for anchoring the weather guard into the ground, wherein one end of the first and second legs ~~[[is]] are attached to the attached~~ at one end to a corresponding vertical support.

5. (Original) The weather guard of claim 1, wherein the vertical support member is extendable.

6. (Original) The weather guard of claim 5, wherein the vertical support member is telescopically extendable.

7. (Currently Amended) The enclosure of claim 1, further comprising ~~[[an]]~~ a horizontal transverse brace member attached between the vertical support ~~members~~ member.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) The weather guard of claim 1, wherein the membrane is a single impermeable membrane.

10. (Original) The weather guard of claim 1, wherein the membrane is a plurality of impermeable membranes in the form of individual panels that are separately attached to the frame.

11. (Currently Amended) A closed back weather guard, comprising:

a frame comprising a plurality of interconnected rigid members defining a supporting structure, the frame further comprising:

a pair of opposed horizontal transverse members rigidly attached to a pair of opposed cross members substantially perpendicular to the transverse members forming a substantially horizontal rigid body;

at least one downwardly extending vertical support member connected to the horizontal rigid body, the at least one vertical support member is connected to one of the cross members;

at least one bracket comprising a first end and a second end, the first end is attached to the horizontal rigid body and the second end extends downwardly at an angle θ , wherein the second end of the at least one bracket tapers such that it is attached to the vertical support member;

a membrane attached to the frame defining an opening, wherein the membrane forms a shield against environmental conditions inside the opening; [[and]]

first and second back panels forming a back cover of the weather guard, wherein the first and second back panels are adapted to releasably fasten to each other; and

a fastener for removeably attaching the weather guard to at least one of an enclosure or an exterior portion of the structure around an opening.

12. (Original) The weather guard of claim 11, further comprising two opposing downwardly extending vertical support members connected to each one of the corresponding cross members of the substantially horizontal rigid body.

13. (Original) The weather guard of claim 11, further comprising two brackets attached to any one of the opposing cross members, the transverse members, and an intersection point thereof.

14. (Original) The weather guard of claim 11, further comprising a first leg and a second leg for anchoring the weather guard into the ground, wherein one end of the first and second legs is attached to the attached at one end to a corresponding vertical support member.

15. (Previously Presented) The weather guard of claim 11, wherein the vertical support member is extendable.

16. (Original) The weather guard of claim 15, wherein the vertical support member is telescopically extendable.

17. (Original) The enclosure of claim 11, further comprising an horizontal transverse brace member attached between the vertical support members.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A weather guard, comprising:

means for supporting, comprising:

a pair of opposed transverse horizontal means for holding the membrane in a horizontal position rigidly attached to a pair of opposed cross means for holding substantially perpendicular to the opposed transverse horizontal means for holding; [[and]]

means for shielding attached to the means for supporting defining an opening, wherein the means for shielding also defines a first tapered side extending downwardly and a second tapered side extending downwardly; and

means for mounting a feature for removeably attaching the frame to an enclosure or a structure.

20. (Canceled).